

Das Rheingold

1936

Friday, November 6, 1936 8:00 PM

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*The* SAN FRANCISCO  
OPERA  
ASSOCIATION

GAETANO MEROLA  
*General Director*

*Fourteenth Annual Season*

OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 22, 1936

WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE

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# San Francisco

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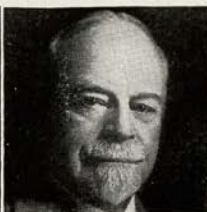
In presenting the San Francisco Opera Company in its Fourteenth Annual Season, the San Francisco Opera Association makes a distinct departure from the procedure of previous seasons by giving two separate groups of performances, a Regular Subscription Series and a series of Three Popular Saturday Nights. The officers of the Opera Association, in determining upon the popular Saturday night series, were actuated by the knowledge that there is a vast number of music lovers who have not been attendants of the San Francisco Opera Company performances, and the desire to develop new audiences from that number. The gratifying response to the new series fully warrants their seasonable continuance.



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January 8	January 9	Opening Concerts
January 15	January 16	George Gershwin
January 22	January 23	Alex. Tansman
February 5	February 6	Toscha Seidel
February 19	February 20	Richard Crooks
March 5	March 6	Marian Anderson
March 19	March 20	Isaac Stern
April 9	April 10	Vladimir Horowitz
April 16	April 17	John Chas. Thomas
April 23	April 24	Closing Pair

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## Acknowledgment

THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ASSOCIATION gratefully acknowledges the loan of stage properties from Hotel Mark Hopkins, Podesta & Baldocchi, William D. McCann and Schmidt & Son. The Steinway is the Official Piano of the San Francisco Opera Company. This and other instruments furnished by Sherman, Clay & Co.

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# San Francisco OPERA Company

GAETANO MEROLA, General Director



Famous stars assembled by General Director Gaetano Merola, who for fourteen years has guided its artistic destiny, presented in a repertoire of established Italian and French operas and four great Wagner works performed under the batons of pre-eminent conductors, have combined to again flash the San Francisco Opera Company into view as one of the world's great opera organizations and to still more firmly establish the City in its recognized place as a cultural center.



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# The San Francisco Opera Company

GAETANO MEROLA, *General Director*

With performances at popular prices included in its repertoire for the first time, the San Francisco Opera Company, maintained by the San Francisco Opera Association, begins its Fourteenth Annual Season on Friday evening, October 30, and brings it to an end Sunday afternoon, November 22.

## Conductors

	GAETANO MEROLA	FRITZ REINER	
GENNARO PAPI	RICHARD LERT		KARL RIEDEL
Assistant Conductors: Antonio Dell'Orefice, Hugo Strelitzer,			
Giacomo Spadoni, Maurice Rouyer, William Tyroler, Fredrick Vadja.			

## Guest Artists

PERRY ASKAM, *baritone*; CHARLOTTE BOERNER, *soprano*; BRUNA CASTAGNA, *soprano*; HANS CLEMENS, *tenor*; NORMAN CORDON, *bass*; LOUIS D'ANGELO, *bass*; DORIS DOE, *contralto*; KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD, *soprano*; ARNOLD GABOR, *baritone*; ALFREDO GANDOLFI, *baritone*; CHARLES KULLMANN, *tenor*; LOTTE LEHMANN, *soprano*; EMANUEL LIST, *bass*; DOROTHEE MANSKI, *soprano*; GIOVANNI MARTINELLI, *tenor*; KATHRYN MEISLE, *contralto*; LAURITZ MELCHIOR, *tenor*; CARLO MORELLI, *baritone*; LUDOVICO OLIVIERO, *tenor*; EZIO PINZA, *bass*; ELISABETH RETHBERG, *soprano*; FRIEDRICH SCHORR, *baritone*; LAWRENCE TIBBETT, *baritone*; GINA VANNA, *soprano*.

## Resident Artists

EVARISTO ALIBERTINI, *bass*; LOUIS BRAUNSTEIN, *baritone*; JOHN BURR, *baritone*; OLGA CALLAHAN, *contralto*; IRENE FREMONT, *contralto*; LESLIE GEORGE, *tenor*; BERNICE GLANDO, *soprano*; ESTHER GREEN, *soprano*; EVA GRUNINGER, *contralto*; PAUL GUENTER, *baritone*; ELIZABETH HACKETT, *contralto*; JOHN HOWELL, *baritone*; GWYNFI JONES, *tenor*; OLIVER JONES, *bass*; LINA KROPH, *soprano*; KATHLEEN LAWLOR, *soprano*; JEANETTE MASCHIO, *soprano*; JEAN MERRILL, *soprano*; MARI MONTE, *soprano*; MARGARET O'DEA, *contralto*; ROY RUSSELL, *tenor*; LAWRENCE SHERRILL, *bass*; JOSEPHINE TUMMINIA, *soprano*; GERALDINE WATT, *soprano*; PAUL WRIGHT, *bass*.

## Understudy Artists

ANITA AGUERO, FLOSSITA BADGER, MILDRED BALDWIN, DOROTHY CARROLL, BEATRICE DYSON, FRANCES HATHAWAY, MARIE LEONORE, MONA POULEE, JOSEPHINE TAGGARD, ANNA YOUNG, *sopranos*; JOHANNA HACKENBERG, JEAN HARTMAN, CATHERINE STEED, BETH WOLFF, *contraltos*; JOSEPH TISSIER, *tenor*.

Continued on Page 13

# NBC ARTIST SERVICE

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Kirsten Flagstad	Friedrich Schorr
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Continued on page 34



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# Repertoire

## Regular Series

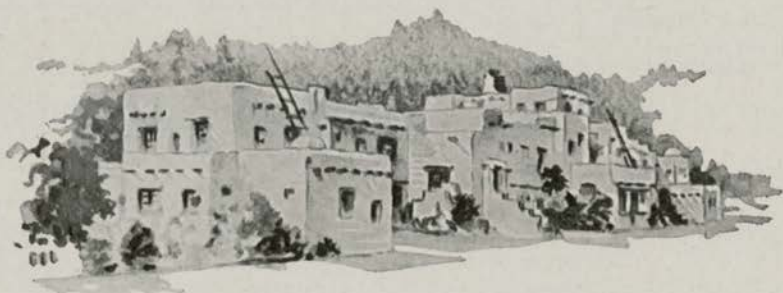
- LA JUIVE (HALEVY) . . . . . *Friday Night, October 30, at 8:00*  
With Rethberg, Martinelli, Boener, Pinza, Clemens, Howell, Wright, Burr, Guenter,  
Corps de Ballet. MEROLA, Conductor.
- TRISTAN UND ISOLDE (WAGNER) . . . . . *Monday Night, November 2, at 7:45*  
With Melchior, Flagstad, Meisle, Schorr, List, Gabor, Clemens, D'Angelo, Oliviero.  
REINER, Conductor.
- CARMEN (BIZET) . . . . . *Wednesday Night, November 4, at 8:00*  
With Castagna, Kullmann, Pinza, Tumminia, D'Angelo, Kroph, Doe, Oliviero, Russell,  
Howell, Corps de Ballet. PAPI, Conductor.
- RIGOLETTO (VERDI) . . . . . *Friday Night, November 6, at 8:00*  
With Tibbett, Tumminia, Kullmann, Pinza, Gruninger, Cordon, O. Jones, Oliviero, Howell,  
Green, Hackett, Lawlor, Corps de Ballet. PAPI, Conductor.
- GOTTERDAMMERUNG (WAGNER) . . . . . *Saturday Afternoon, November 7, at 5:00 \**  
With Flagstad, Melchior, Schorr, Gabor, List, Manski, Meisle, Kroph, Doe, Merrill, O'Dea.  
REINER, Conductor.
- \* There will be an intermission of two hours after the first act. The performance will be resumed at 8:30 sharp. No one will be seated after the curtain rises.
- MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (MOZART) . . . . . *Monday Night, November 9, at 8:00*  
With Pinza, Rethberg, Askam, Boerner, Vanna, Monte, Callahan, O. Jones, D'Angelo,  
Clemens. LERT, Conductor.
- I PAGLIACCI (LEONCAVALLO) . . . . . *Wednesday Night, November 11, at 8:00*  
With Martinelli, Vanna, Tibbett, Oliviero, Howell. PAPI, Conductor.
- FOLLOWED BY
- GIANNI SCHICCHI (PUCCINI) . . . . .  
With Tibbett, Tumminia, Kullmann, Doe, Green, Oliviero, D'Angelo, Merrill, O. Jones, Gabor,  
Gandolfi, Wright. PAPI, Conductor.
- DIE WALKURE (WAGNER) . . . . . *Friday Night, November 13, at 7:30*  
With Flagstad, Lehmann, Meisle, Melchior, Schorr, List, Manski, Doe, Merrill, Callahan,  
Gruninger, Glando, Watt, Green. REINER, Conductor.
- LA FORZA DEL DESTINO (VERDI) . . . . . *Monday Night, November 16, at 8:00*  
With Rethberg, Martinelli, Morelli, Doe, Callahan, Pinza, D'Angelo, Gandolfi, Oliviero, Burr,  
Howell. PAPI, Conductor.
- LA TOSCA (PUCCINI) . . . . . *Wednesday Night, November 18, at 8:15*  
With Lehmann, Kullmann, Tibbett, Howell, D'Angelo, Oliviero, Cordon, Alibertini, Frimont.  
PAPI, Conductor.
- OTELLO (VERDI) . . . . . *Friday Night, November 20, at 8:00*  
With Martinelli, Rethberg, Tibbett, Clemens, Gruninger, D'Angelo, Cordon, Russell, Howell.  
MEROLA, Conductor.
- 

## Popular Series

- BARBER OF SEVILLE (ROSSINI) . . . . . *Saturday Night, October 31, at 8:15*  
With Kullmann, Tumminia, Morelli, Pinza, D'Angelo, Gruninger, Oliviero.  
MEROLA, Conductor.
- IL TROVATORE (VERDI) . . . . . *Saturday Matinee, November 14, at 2:00*  
With Rethberg, Martinelli, Castagna, Morelli, D'Angelo, Oliviero, Maschio, Burr.  
PAPI Conductor.
- DAS RHEINGOLD (WAGNER) . . . . . *Saturday Night, November 21, at 8:30*  
With Schorr, Gandolfi, George, Clemens, Gabor, Oliviero, Cordon, List, Manski, Merrill,  
O'Dea, Kroph, Doe. REIDEL, Conductor.
- 

## Extra Performances

- CARMEN (BIZET) . . . . . *Sunday Matinee, November 15, at 2:00*  
With Castagna, Kullmann, Pinza, Tumminia, D'Angelo, Kroph, Doe, Oliviero, Russell,  
Howell, Corps de Ballet. PAPI, Conductor.
- TRISTAN UND ISOLDE (WAGNER) . . . . . *Tuesday Night, November 17, at 7:45*  
With Melchior, Flagstad, Doe, Schorr, List, Gabor, Clemens, D'Angelo, Oliviero.  
REINER, Conductor.
- DIE WALKURE, (WAGNER) . . . . . *Sunday Matinee, November 22, at 2:00*  
With Flagstad, Lehmann, Meisle, Melchior, Schorr, List, Manski, Doe, Merrill, Callahan,  
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# Programme

## DAS RHEINGOLD

SATURDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 21, AT 8:30

Opera in four scenes. Music and text (in German) by Richard Wagner.

### THE CAST

Wotan . . . . .	FRIEDRICH SCHORR
Donner . . . . .	ALFREDO GANDOLFI
Froh . . . . .	*LESLIE GEORGE
Loge . . . . .	HANS CLEMENS
Alberich . . . . .	ARNOLD GABOR
Mime . . . . .	LUDOVICO OLIVIERO
Fasolt . . . . .	NORMAN CORDON
Fafner . . . . .	EMANUEL LIST
Fricka . . . . .	DOROTHEE MANSKI
Freia . . . . .	JEAN MERRILL
Erda . . . . .	MARGARET O'DEA
Woglinde . . . . .	LINA KROPH
Wellgunde . . . . .	JEAN MERRILL
Flosshilde . . . . .	DORIS DOE

*\*San Francisco Opera debut*

Conductor: KARL RIEDEL

Stage Director: ARMANDO AGNINI

Chorus Master: WILLIAM TYRÖLER

TIME AND PLACE: Legendary

Scene I The Bottom of the Rhine

Scene II A Mountaintop, Showing the Castle of Valhalla

Scene III Alberich's Cave

Scene IV Same as Scene II.

*Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises.*

*Encores not permitted.*

## THE STORY

NOTE: Richard Wagner's "Der Ring Des Nibelungen" is written in a prologue, "Das Rheingold" and three dramas, "Die Walkure," "Siegfried" and "Die Gotterdammerung." "The operas," writes Lavignac, "which form the complete ring develop many changes about the curse which the Nibelung Alberich has laid upon the power-endowing ring, forged by him from the Rheingold which he stole from the Rhine Maidens and which, in turn, Wotan has wrested from him. Through many vicissitudes the cursed ring brings destruction to all who possess it. The series of catastrophes which it occasions results in the final ruin of the race of Gods, and only comes to an end when the last victim, Brunnhilde, who returns to the purifying waters of the Rhine its stolen treasure, at last delivers the world from the terrible anathema."

### Scene I

The Rhine maidens guard the gold at the bottom of a stream. Alberich, having learned from their talk that the gold will give him supreme power, seizes it and makes the required renunciation of love forever.

### Scene II

Wotan, Master of the Universe, and Fricka, his wife, gaze upon Valhalla, castle built by the giants Fasolt and Fafner, the price for which is to be Freia, goddess of youth, love and beauty. Regretting the bargain Wotan has sent Loge, the Fire God, in search of a substitute for Freia that will satisfy the giants. Loge returns to tell of the theft of the Rheingold and of the untold wealth and power brought by the ring Alberich has made from it. The giants demand that Wotan secure the ring for them and carry off Freia as hostage.

### Scene III

Wotan and Loge descend to Nibelheim, in the bowels of the earth, where Alberich shows them the Tarnhelm, a helmet which renders the wearer invisible and gives him power to change shape at will. Loge questions the magic of the helmet. In proof Alberich transforms himself into a dragon, then into a toad when he is overpowered.

### Scene IV

Alberich, brought to the surface of the earth, is forced to give up his treasure, the ring and the helmet. In a rage he calls down the curse which carries misfortune to all who may possess the ring. Unmindful, Wotan slips the ring upon his finger. The giants demand that the treasure be piled up until so high as to completely hide Freia. But the eyes of Freia may yet be seen. All but the ring is heaped on. The giants demand the ring be added. Wotan refuses. But Erda appears and advises Wotan to give up the ring. It is no sooner done than the giants quarrel over its possession. Fafner kills Fasolt, gathers up the treasure and drags it away. Gathering clouds are dispelled by Donner, thunder god. Froh builds a rainbow as a bridge by which the gods proceed into Valhalla.



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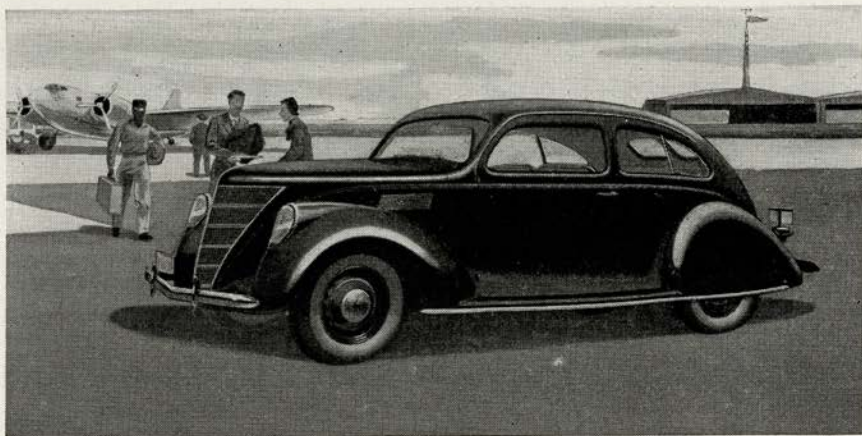
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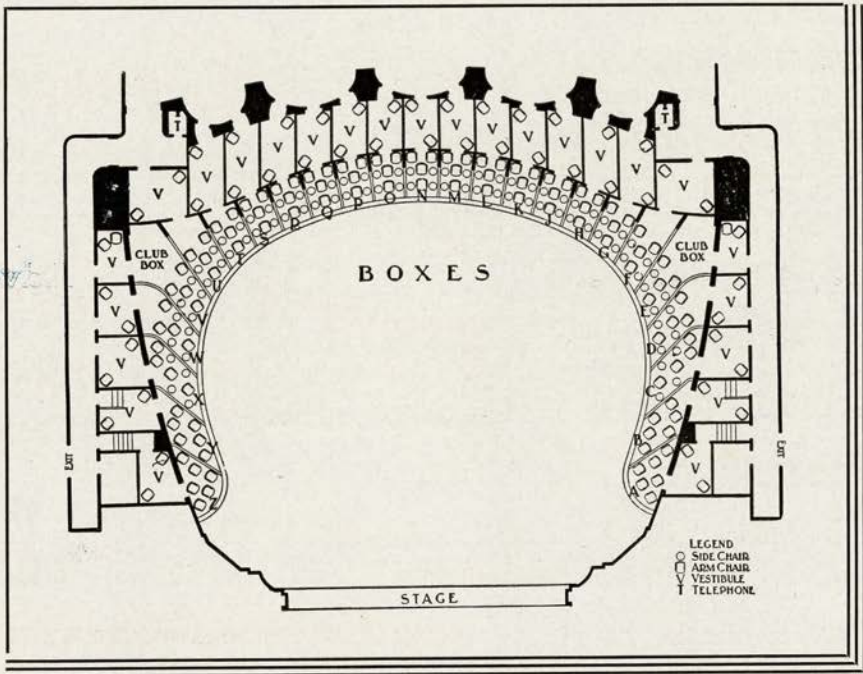
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*Continued on page 35*

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# Programme

## DIE WALKURE

SUNDAY MATINEE, NOVEMBER 22, AT 2:00

Opera in three acts. Music and text (in German) by Richard Wagner

### THE CAST

Brunnhilde . . . . .	KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD
Sieglinde . . . . .	LOTTE LEHMANN
Fricka . . . . .	KATHRYN MEISLE
Siegmund . . . . .	LAURITZ MELCHIOR
Wotan . . . . .	FRIEDRICH SCHORR
Hunding . . . . .	EMANUEL LIST
Helmwige . . . . .	DOROTHEE MANSKI
Gerhilde . . . . .	BERNICE GLANDO
Ortlinde . . . . .	JEAN MERRILL
Siegrune . . . . .	GERALDINE WATT
Rossweisse . . . . .	ESTHER GREEN
Waltraute . . . . .	DORIS DOE
Grimgerde . . . . .	OLGA CALLAHAN
Schwertleite . . . . .	EVA GRUNINGER

Conductor: FRITZ REINER

Stage Director: ARMANDO AGNINI

TIME AND PLACE: Legendary

Act I Interior of Hunding's Hut in the Forest

Act II A Wild and Rocky Pass

Act III Rock of the Valkyries.

*Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises*

*Encores not permitted.*



## **THE STORY**

NOTE: "Die Walkure" is the second of Wagner's "Der Ring des Nibelungen." In "Das Rheingold," prelude to the cycle, the Nibelunger Alberich steals the power-endowing ring forged from the Rheingold. Wotan, in turn, wrests it from Alberich but delivers it to the giant Fafner. Wotan has begotten nine immortal Valkyries who lead fallen heroes to Valhalla to fight the hordes of Alberich. He also begets the twins, Siegmund and Sieglinde, in union with an earth woman. It is their story that forms the subject of "Die Walkure."

### **ACT I**

Siegmund, driven into Hunding's hut by a terrible storm, is confronted by Sieglinde, Hunding's wife. Hunding, returning, observes the likeness between the two, and learns that Siegmund is the son of Walse, his mortal enemy. Sieglinde, who has conceived a passionate love for Siegmund, pours a sleeping potion in Hunding's goblet. She tells Siegmund her story of abduction and forced marriage to Hunding and of the sword, visible where it has been plunged into an ash tree by a one-eyed warrior, destined for him with strength to pull it forth. Comparing stories they find themselves to be brother and sister as well as lovers. Both are children of Walse who had thrust the sword, Nothung, into the tree for their deliverance. Siegmund tears the sword from its ashen sheath and clasping Sieglinde in his arms, carries her passionately away.

### **ACT II**

Wotan, who has decreed death for Hunding, so instructs Brunnhilde. But Fricka, his wife and guardian of the marriage vow, in a stormy scene avows that punishment should be visited upon Siegmund and Sieglinde guilty of adultery, and compels him to swear he will not protect his son. Wotan then commands Brunnhilde to protect Hunding and lead Siegmund to Valhalla. Brunnhilde vainly pleads Siegmund's cause. Siegmund and Sieglinde arrive fleeing from Hunding's vengeance. While Siegmund stands guard over the exhausted Sieglinde, Brunnhilde appears and, moved by his devotion, promises him victory despite Wotan's command. Hunding is heard approaching and Siegmund rushes to meet his attack. Wotan appears and with a stroke breaks his sword to splinters. Hunding thrusts Siegmund through the breast and in turn is killed by a scornful wave of Wotan's hand.

### **ACT III**

Brunnhilde implores aid for Sieglinde from the assembling Valkyries. But fearing the wrath of Wotan none dare offer it. Brunnhilde, giving Sieglinde the fragments of Siegmund's sword, bids her seek refuge in the forest wherein Fafner guards the ring there to await the birth of her expected child who shall be named Siegfried and conquer all. The outraged Wotan appears and sorrowfully announces his punishment of the disobeying Brunnhilde. Divested of her divinity she shall sleep on the mountain to become the bride of the first man who finds her. But he will build about her a magic circle of fire so that none but a hero may awaken her.



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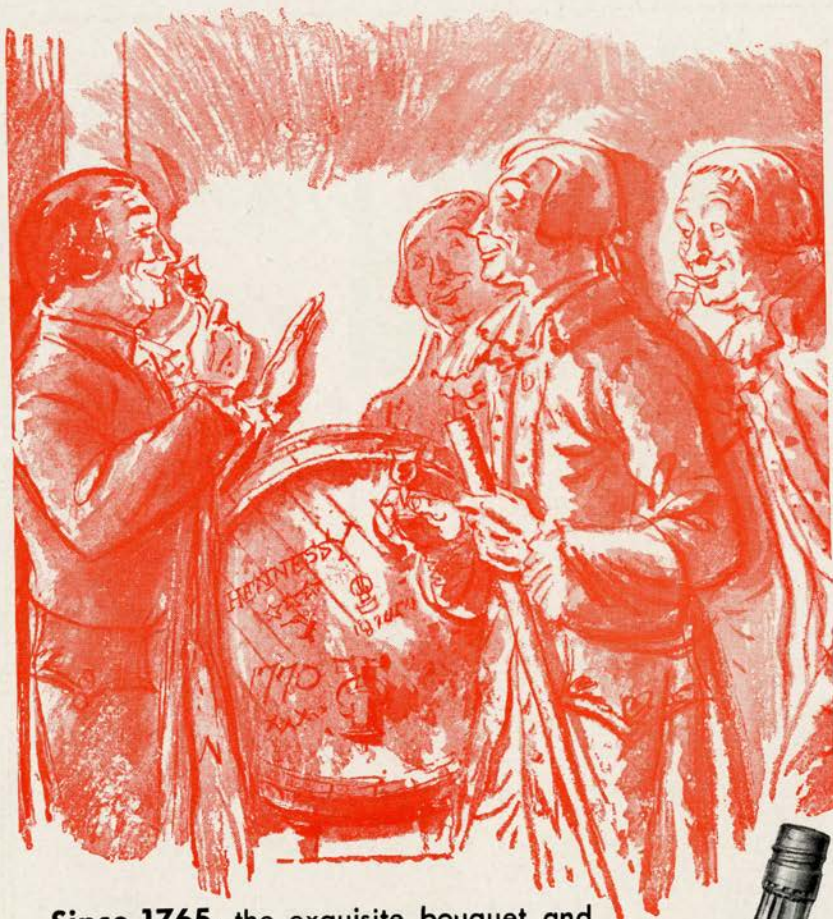
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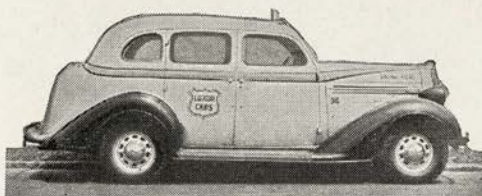


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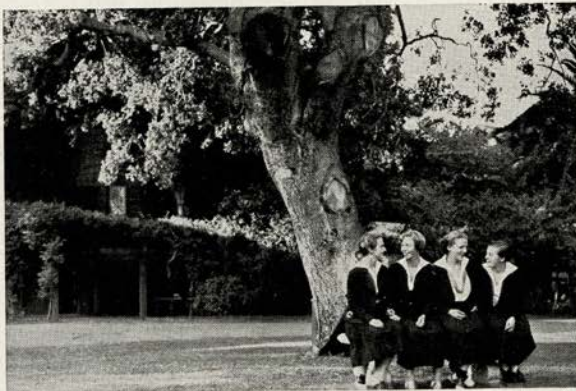
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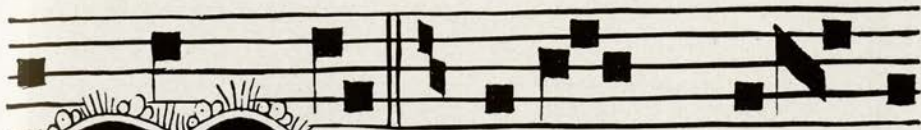
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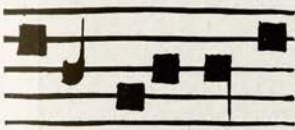
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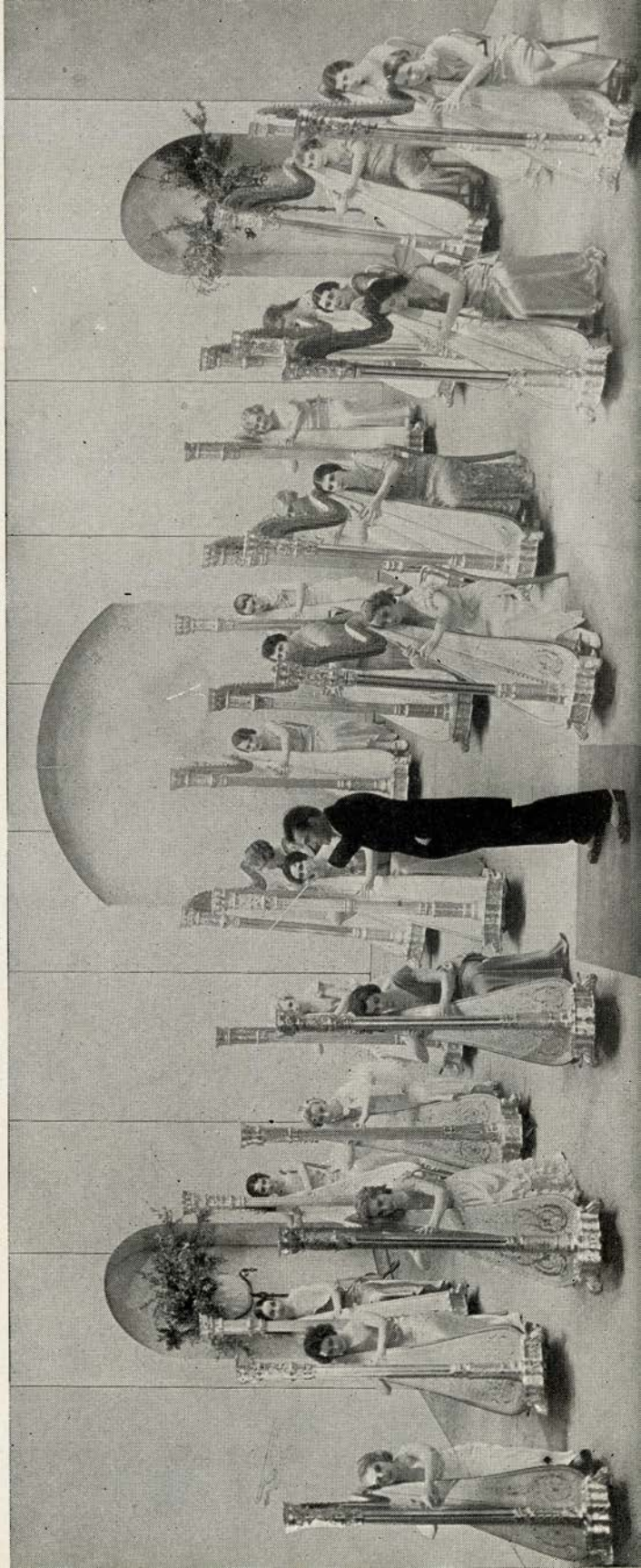
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